AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A gun tube support assembly in which the gun tube slides when a projectile is fired through the gun tube, the gun tube support assembly comprising:

a plurality of support sections arranged annularly around ~~a~~ the gun tube, each support assembly including:

a bush housing;

a cradle bush for the bush housing for receiving and supporting the gun tube and on which the gun tube slides within the gun tube support assembly when the projectile is fired through the gun tube; and

a damping means sandwiched between the bush housing and cradle bush, for absorbing and damping kinetic energy emanating from the gun tube during the firing ~~thereof~~ of the projectile through the gun tube.

2. (original) A gun tube support assembly according to claim 1 wherein the damping means is a resilient body selected from the group consisting of a rubber pad, a spring, and a pneumatic or hydraulic cushion.

3. (original) A gun tube support assembly according to claim 2 wherein the damping means comprises a pad of a relatively high-temperature silicon rubber.

4. (original) A gun tube support assembly according to claim 3 wherein the rubber pad includes a plurality of protrusions extending from a face of the pad for accommodating compression of the pad.

5. (previously presented) A gun tube support assembly according to claim 2 wherein each bush housing comprises a curved bush housing plate having an inner surface for abutting the resilient body.

6. (original) A gun tube support assembly according to claim 5 wherein end flanges for connecting the bush housing to a cradle of a gun are disposed towards opposite ends of the bush housing plate.

7. (currently amended) A gun tube support assembly ~~according to claim 6~~ comprising:

a plurality of support sections arranged annularly around a gun tube, each including:

a bush housing;

a cradle bush for the bush housing for receiving and supporting the gun tube; and

a damping means sandwiched between the bush housing and cradle bush, for absorbing and damping kinetic energy emanating from the gun tube during firing thereof,

the damping means being a resilient body selected from the group consisting of a rubber pad, a spring, and a pneumatic or hydraulic cushion;

each bush housing comprising a curved bush housing plate having an inner surface for abutting the resilient body; and

wherein end flanges for connecting the bush housing to a cradle of a gun disposed towards opposite ends of the bush housing plate; and

wherein removable side flanges for retaining the resilient body are further connectable to the sides of the bush housing plate.

8. (previously presented) A gun tube support assembly according to claim 7 wherein each cradle bush comprises a cradle bush plate curved complementary to the bush housing plate and having an inner surface for abutting the gun tube and an outer surface for abutting the resilient body.

9. (previously presented) A gun tube support assembly according to claim 8 wherein the end flanges extend in the direction of the bush housing from the respective opposite ends of the cradle bush plate.

10. (previously presented) A gun tube support assembly according to claim 9 wherein the protrusions extending from the rubber pad face towards the gun tube to abut the outer surface of the cradle bush plate.

11. (currently amended) A gun tube support assembly according to claim 1 which includes from two to six support sections arranged annularly around the gun tube and received in an opening in ~~the~~ a cradle of a gun.

12. (previously presented) A gun tube support assembly according to claim 1 wherein the cradle bush is biased in the direction of the gun tube to keep the cradle bush in contact with the gun tube and to allow for thermal expansion of the gun tube.

13. (previously presented) A cradle for carrying a gun tube including a gun tube support assembly according to claim 1.

14. (previously presented) A gun provided with a gun tube support assembly according to claim 1.

Claims 15-17. (cancelled)